Ram Niwas, V.S. Ram Marg, New Hyderabad, Lucknow, INDIA

dated 10th Aug '59

Dear Sir.

I hope you received my earlier letter in June. When I returned to the laboratory after my six-week holiday, I found that some of my P+ strains of Vibrio cholerae (maintained on nutrient agar slants) had become infertile and when tested on indicators they failed to produce the feeble lytic effect with which they were previously with other P+ strains, it was possible to isolate discrete colonies, after plating on nutrient agar, which were P+ though P- colonies also occurred in significant numbers. This points to the instability of the P factor in V. cholerae unlike F in B. coli. I will be pleased to have your comments on this as I feel that this instability will be unusual if the fertilifty factor was associated with I have tested a few of the P- isolates lysogeny or colicinogeny. for Hfr behaviour but the results have been negative.

The general scope of the work here and the results already obtained have been communicated to you. A more extensive and detailed a study will be required if this is to serve any useful purpose. I feel that this may be difficult here as I happen to be a solitary worker and do not have the facilties to consult and discuss the problem with wexperts and to benefit from their advice and criticism.

May I therefore take the liberty of enquiring if it will be possible for you to provide me with an opportunity to work with you in your laboratory, in case you are interested in the study?

If this will be possible I am sure the work will progress rapidly especially with your guidance and support.

Perhaps a few details about myself may be relevent here.

My academic qualifications are: B.Sc(Chemistry); MB., B.S(University of Madras); M.Sc(Eacteriology, University of Madras) and Ph.D.(Eacteriology, University of London). I was awarded a Felloship by the Nuffield Foundation for higher training in Bacteriology in the United Kingdom during the years 1953-55. During this period I worked as and internal student (for Ph.D degree) under Prof. Robert Cruickshank at the Wright-Fleming Institute of Mixcrobiology, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Praed Street, London W 2. I was also associated with Dr. Derrick Rowley and Dr. R. H. Gorrill (now Reader in Bacteriology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London SEI) in my Ph.D. work. I have six publications and two thesis to my credit all relating to studies with V. cholerae.

I am 39 years of age, married with three children.

I will be happy to have your early reply and I do hope my request will receive your favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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Prof. J. Lederberg, Department of Medical Genetics, Stanford University, California